

MINUTES

MONTANA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES 59th LEGISLATURE - REGULAR SESSION

JOINT APPROPRIATIONS SUBCOMMITTEE ON LONG RANGE PLANNING

Call to Order: By **CHAIRMAN JACK WELLS**, on January 6, 2005 at 8:10 A.M., in Room 350 Capitol.

ROLL CALL

Members Present:

Rep. Jack Wells, Chairman (R)
Sen. John Brueggeman (R)
Sen. Mike Cooney (D)
Rep. Ralph L. Lenhart (D)

Members Excused: none.

Members Absent: Rep. Carol C. Juneau (D)
Sen. Bob Keenan (R)
Sen. Jon Tester (D)
Rep. John E. Witt (R)

Staff Present: Laura Dillon, Committee Secretary
Catherine Duncan, Legislative Branch
Amy Carlson, OBPP

Please Note. These are summary minutes. Testimony and discussion are paraphrased and condensed.

Note: This is an organizational meeting of the Long Range Planning subcommittee. No bills or formal presentations were heard.

CHAIRMAN WELLS welcomed the committee members to the initial organizational meeting of the Long Range Planning Subcommittee. He introduced Laura Dillon, secretary; Cathy Duncan, Legislative Fiscal Analyst (LFA); and Amy Carlson, Office of Budget and Programming (OBPP). He stated that Amy Carlson and Mark Bruno would be acting as a team on behalf of OBPP for our committee.

CHAIRMAN WELLS began discussing possibilities for a committee vice chairman. He believed that the vice-chair should be a senator and asked SEN. BRUEGGEMAN if it was the usual practice for the vice chair to be a senator.

SEN. BRUEGGEMAN answered that typically the vice-chair is from the senate and **CHAIRMAN WELLS** agreed that the vice-chair should also be from the majority party.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 0 - 1.8; Comments: SENATOR COONEY entered the meeting at 8:12am.}

SEN. COONEY said he thought that SEN. TESTER had agreed to be the vice chair, but was unable to verify this due to SEN. TESTER being absent from the meeting.

CHAIRMAN WELLS stated that he would take the action of asking SEN. TESTER if he would like to be vice-chair.

CHAIRMAN WELLS commented that the committee may be short on members often because many members are also working for other committees. This is due to the even split of the parties in the house.

SEN. COONEY said that he would also be absent at times because of having double duty, but would keep the chairman posted as to avoid having problems maintaining a quorum.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 1.8 - 5.1}

CHAIRMAN WELLS told the committee that he did not want to change the hearing schedule too much because of the possible impact it may have on the people who have traveled here to testify. He also went over the schedule that Cathy Duncan had prepared for the committee. The legislators will have a few training sessions, including training for HB 2 before the committee's first bill hearing on Monday, January 10, and the chairman encouraged all members to attend.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 5.1 - 6.7}

CHAIRMAN WELLS began discussion of the proposed field trip on the committee agenda. Cathy Duncan had included two different options

for a possible field trip to see long range planning projects in the state (Exhibit 1). The chairman said that although he would like to see the campus in Havre (Option 2), he realized that visiting the Montana State Hospital in Warm Springs and the Montan Developmental Center in Boulder (Option 1) may be easier due to the time constraints on the committee.

EXHIBIT(jlh04a010.PDF)

REP. LENHART said he believed Option 1 to be the best choice for the committee as they would have enough time to see two projects in one day.

Cathy Duncan stated that the two projects in Option 1 were chosen because they would give the committee the chance to see both an older project, as well as a more modern project.

CHAIRMAN WELLS agreed and told the committee to plan on the Option 1 field trip.

SEN. COONEY said that the dean of the Helena Technical College had spoken with him and would like the committee to set up a tour of the college if they found the time. He felt that the tour would not need to be scheduled at this point since the college is conveniently located in Helena, and with the approval of the chair, will advise the dean to speak with CHAIRMAN WELLS about setting this up.

CHAIRMAN WELLS agreed to try and fit the college tour into the schedule in the latter part of the month.

Cathy Duncan said she would be able to help organize a tour sometime when the committee members have time, possibly early evening.

REP. LENHART asked if the Helena College of Technology was a part of the Montana University System, as the committee had hearings on January with regard to the Montana University System.

SEN. COONEY reiterated that the trip would not take long, and that the dean of the college would be flexible in setting up a tour.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 6.7 - 12.8}

CHAIRMAN WELLS brought up discussion on the use of proxies in committee. He said that there had been similar discussion of proxies in the Appropriations Committee yesterday and the committee had suggested to accept proxies that were not written on the official form, but only if they included the date, the signature of the person using the proxy and the name of the

person designated to use the proxy. **CHAIRMAN WELLS** said that he would be willing to accept proxies in this form from the committee members.

CHAIRMAN WELLS said that he was hoping for good attendance on executive action days, and that committee members would also be responsible to research any issues they may have missed by being absent during a regular hearing.

Cathy Duncan told the committee that they would be receiving books with most of the budget information and recommendations, so committee members should be able to keep current on any information that they may have missed while absent from a meeting.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 12.8 - 18.1}

SEN. COONEY told the chairman that he could be reached in Room 317B if he was ever needed during the meetings.

Cathy Duncan said that she thought it would be good to have a record of where the rest of the legislators on the committee could be found if they were needed during a meeting.

CHAIRMAN WELLS assigned the compilation of this record to the secretary.

CHAIRMAN WELLS asked the committee how they felt about having snacks present at committee meetings. If the committee was interested, they could take up a collection to have treats present at meetings. The chairman and the committee discussed the subject and decided that it was not necessary to have any food at their meetings.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 18.1 - 24.0}

CHAIRMAN WELLS gave Cathy Duncan, LFD and Amy Carlson, OBPP the opportunity to go over any other issues that the committee should be aware of. He suggested that the committee convene again tomorrow so that they could be speaking to a majority and Cathy indicated she would be willing to do that.

Cathy Duncan asked if everyone in the committee had copies of both the LFD and OBPP budgets, and advised the committee members to read over some of the material for an introduction into the programs.

CHAIRMAN WELLS repeated this information and then suggested that the committee meet again tomorrow at 8:30 A.M. in an effort to make it easier for all of the members to attend.

SEN. COONEY asked if most of the projects in Long Range Planning Committee were maintenance or if there were also building projects included.

Cathy Duncan answered that this was true, although some of the projects under the university system require approval for funding before they can begin putting together a new building project.

{Tape: 1; Side: A; Approx. Time Counter: 21.2 - 28.1}

Amy Carlson agreed with Cathy Duncan, stating that some projects under the Montana University System need to be authorized because of the maintenance they will require over time.

Cathy Duncan stated that it is necessary to find out who will be responsible for the maintenance of these buildings and if the university will be able to maintain the buildings through their own funding.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 3.6 - 4.1}

Amy Carlson said that the Long Range Planning Committee would be required to vote on whether or not they will pay for any maintenance costs of these buildings, and if so, what percentage will be paid.

Cathy Duncan agreed with the statements of Amy Carlson, but added that most of the long range building projects would be maintenance projects.

SEN. COONEY asked if we should anticipate people coming before the committee with proposals for new building projects. He asked if either of the staff present at the meeting were aware of any attempts of people who may not have been issued a permit under the Martz administration to receive such a permit through the committee.

Cathy Duncan said that she was not aware of any such people. However, the Montana Historical Society has requested time to make a presentation to the committee regarding their Capitol Hill Mall project; and this has been added to the schedule. She added that the Capitol Hill Mall project is the only case of its kind, outside of the building within the university system that was previously discussed.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 4.1 - 7.8}

SEN. BRUEGGEMAN asked if there had been any discussion of a "hot site," as with Information Technology Services Division (ITSD).

Amy Carlson stated that the hot site was discussed internally, but after extensive discussion between ITSD and the Department of Administration, Architecture and Engineering, it did not make the priority list of available funding.

SEN. BRUEGGEMAN said that he was interested in finding out the hot site status because there had been concern in the past about the kinds of problems that could result from a computer or information technology disaster.

SEN. COONEY agreed that the hot site was something that needed to be looked at, and said that at one time, ITSD was shut down for an entire day because of a squirrel that had caused a short in the power supply. He also expressed flooding concerns due to the ITSD being located in the basement of the Mitchell Building.

Amy Carlson said that she thought they may be constructing a new building for the ITSD, but she could not be sure without talking to the proper authorities.

CHAIRMAN WELLS asked if the ITSD was not included in the budget because of lack of planning.

Amy Carlson stated that there were plans for including ITSD, but it fell short of the priority list for funds. Ms. Carlson thought that one of the reasons the ITSD project fell short was because the budget is more focused on cleaning up old problems due to the sheer number of necessary maintenance projects right now.

{Tape: 1; Side: B; Approx. Time Counter: 7.8 - 11}

CHAIRMAN WELLS asked there were any other projects that committee members knew would be showing up on the agenda that could be discussed. Seeing none, the chairman scheduled another meeting for tomorrow at 8:30 A.M.

Cathy Duncan asked the members to mention tomorrow's meeting to Senate members.

REP. LENHART asked if the HB 2 training repeated itself, since it was offered at two different times.

CHAIRMAN WELLS said he thought that each portion of the training contained different material.

CHAIRMAN WELLS closed the meeting and scheduled another meeting for Friday, January 7 at 8:30 A.M.

The meeting was adjourned.

ADJOURNMENT

Adjournment: 8:47 A.M.

REP. JACK WELLS, Chairman

LAURA DILLON, Secretary

JW/LD

Additional Exhibits:

EXHIBIT ([jlh04aad0.PDF](#))